Application No.: 09/752,600

Office Action Dated: February 10, 2003

**PATENT** 

## **Listing of Claims:**

1967 1967 1. (Currently Amended) A method for testing a communication network, comprising:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

transmitting a first signal from a first point to a second point of said communication network, wherein said first and said second points are remotely located;

recording a first time value of said transmitting using a first clock;

receiving a second signal at said second point of said communication

network; and

recording a second time value of said receiving using a second clock, wherein said first clock and said second clock operate from a substantially similar reference;

comparing said first signal and said second signal as a function of said first and second time values; and

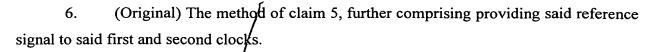
determining at least one performance characteristic of said communication network based on said comparing.

- 2. (Canceled)
- 3. (Canceled).
- 4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 31, wherein said performance characteristic includes at least one of the following: signal delay, signal distortion, signal duplication, signal intensity, and signal-to-noise ratio.
- 5. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising generating a reference signal using a Stratum-2 oscillator.

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7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said first point of said communication network is a customer premise equipment.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said second point of said communication network is a customer premise equipment.

9. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said first point of said communication network is a device within a first central office.

10. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said second point of said communication network is a device within a second central office.

11. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising receiving a clock signal at said first and second clocks.

12. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein said clock signal is received from a satellite.

13. (Previously amended) A system for testing a communication network, comprising:

a signal generator for providing a first signal to said communication

network;

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network:

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a first clock device coupled to said signal generator, wherein said first clock device records a first time said first signal is provided to said communication

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a signal receiver for receiving a second signal from said communication network; and

a second clocking device coupled to said signal receiver, wherein said second clock device records a second time said second signal is received from said communication network,

wherein said first and second clocking devices operate from a substantially similar reference.

- 14. (Original) The system of claim 13, further comprising a clock signal in communication with said first and second clocking devices such that said first and second clocking devices operate from a substantially similar reference.
- 15. (Original) The system of claim 14, further comprising a first satellite receiver in communication with said first clock, and a second satellite receiver in communication with said second clock, wherein said satellite receivers receive said clock signal from a satellite.
- 16. (Original) The system of claim 13, wherein said first and second clocking devices exhibit long-term frequency stability characteristics at least as good as a Stratum-2 level.
- 17. (Original) The system of claim 13, further comprising a first customer premise equipment in communication with said signal generator and said communication network.



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18. (Original) The system of claim 13, further comprising a second customer premise equipment in communication with said signal receiver and said communication network.

19. (Original) The system of claim 13, further comprising a first central office device in communication with said signal generator and said communication network.

- 20. (Original) The system of claim 13, further comprising a second central office device in communication with said signal receiver and said communication network.
- 21. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said first clock is located at said first point.
- 22. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said second clock is located at said second point.
- 23. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising testing the communication network as a function of said first and second time values.
- 24. (Original) The system of claim 13, wherein said first clock is located with said signal generator.
- 25. (Original) The system of claim 13, wherein said second clock is located with said signal receiver.